



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

BETHESDA 14, MD.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
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Professor J. Lederberg
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Dear Joshua:

Thank you for your letter of April 24. I, too, am very sorry that I have not been able to be in Japan to welcome you but trust that you and your wife have had a good time in Japan.

I have not had a chance to work with *B. subtilis* and wonder why you have chosen this organism if you are interested in aromatic metabolism. As you know, there has been a vast knowledge concerning aromatic metabolism in *Pseudomonas* and I have always wondered why genetisists have stayed away from this most lovable beast. Anyway, only studies on aromatic metabolism I know of with *B. subtilis* are old observations by Sasaki in Japan, a number of years ago, describing formation of anthranilic acid from tryptophan. Recently there was a paper in J. Agricul. Chem. Soc. concerning histidine degradation by this organism.

As for Dr. K. Kiyota of Kumamoto University, I am writing today to several people in Japan to find out about his qualifications. I do not know him but I am hoping to obtain reliable information (this is always very difficult in Japan) for you. Please give me a couple of weeks to write more to you about him.

I am sorry I won't be able to meet you in California since I will be going back by way of Europe early in September of this year. If you happen to be in the Washington area, please drop me a note. Maybe we can get together in Bethesda.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Osamu

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